



# Millions fear eviction as housing crisis worsens

By KEN SWEET and MICHAEL CASEY

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — More than 4 million people say they fear being evicted or foreclosed upon in the coming months just as two studies released Wednesday found that the nation's housing availability and affordability crisis is expected to worsen significantly following the pandemic.

The housing crisis, the studies found, risk widening the housing gap between Black, Latino and white households, as well as putting homeownership out of the reach of lower class Americans.

"The unprecedented events of 2020 both exposed and amplified the impacts of unequal ac-

cess to decent, affordable housing," wrote researchers at Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University.

"These disparities are likely to persist even as the economy recovers, with many lower-income households slow to regain their financial footing and facing possible eviction or foreclosure."

The reports were released on the same day as Census Bureau's biweekly Household Pulse Survey came out. It showed that nearly 4.2 million people nationwide report that it was likely or somewhat likely that they will be evicted or foreclosed upon in the next two months.



This April 13, 2019, file photo, shows homes in suburban Salt Lake City.

Continued on next page

Associated Press

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**Continued from Front**

The dismal picture also comes as the clock is ticking on a federal moratorium that has been credited with keeping most at-risk tenants in their home. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention measure is set to expire June 30 but housing advocates are pressuring President Joe Biden's administration to extend it. They argue extending it would give states the time to distribute more than \$45 billion in rental assistance and protect vulnerable communities from Covid-19. The rental assistance has been slow to reach tenants.

"The latest data confirm two things - emergency rental assistance is very slow to reach renters in need, and millions of renters remain behind on rent and at heightened risk of evictions," Diane Yentel, president of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, said in an email interview. "President Biden must extend the eviction moratorium to give more time for rental assistance to reach renters and landlords and to avoid a historic wave of evictions this summer and fall."

Among those confronting the June 30 deadline is Victor Richardson. The 78-year-old, who is disabled and in a wheelchair, is facing eviction from his \$2,500-a-month assisted living center in Tucson, Arizona, and has a court hearing early next month.

"We have been successfully fighting this and I've come to believe we are



**In this July 21, 2020, file photo, a homeowner tours his new home, in Washingtonville, N.Y.**

**Associated Press**

going to come out this victoriously," said Richardson, who housing advocates said would not be admitted to a homeless shelter because of his disability.

The reports by Harvard University and the National Association of Realtors come from different perspectives, but ultimately reach the same conclusion: the United States isn't building enough housing to address population growth, causing record low home availability, and rising home prices are putting homeownership out of reach of millions of Americans.

Without substantial changes in homebuilding and home affordability, both reports say, the result will be a more-or-less permanent class of renters contrasted

with what will likely be a mostly white class of homeowners. While these problems were known before the coronavirus pandemic, the economic impact of the pandemic exacerbated the problem, the reports say.

"The unprecedented events of 2020 both exposed and amplified the impacts of unequal access to decent, affordable housing," researchers at Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University wrote. "These disparities are likely to persist even as the economy recovers, with many lower-income households slow to regain their financial footing and facing possible eviction or foreclosure."

A separate study com-

missioned by the National Association of Realtors released Wednesday found that the U.S. housing market needs to build at least 5.5 million new units to keep up with demand and keeping home ownership affordable over the next 10 years. That's on top of the roughly 1.2 million units built per year on average, or a roughly 60% increase in home construction for the next decade, just to keep up with demand.

"The scale of underbuilding and the existing demand-supply gap is enormous and will require a major national commitment to build more housing of all types by expanding resources, addressing barriers to new development and making new housing construction an integral part of a national infrastructure strategy," wrote Kenneth Rosen, David Bank, Max Hall, Scott Reed and Carson Goldman with the Rosen Consulting Group, in its report to NAR.

The National Association of Realtors report points

out several geographies that require substantial increases in homebuilding; not surprisingly many parts of California and the West are on the top of the list. NAR also says substantial homebuilding is required in Southern Florida, as well as the Northeast, particularly the New York-New Jersey metropolis region.

Without additional housing, an increasing share of Americans are likely to become renters in the coming years. While renting is not necessarily a bad thing since it provides more flexibility, homeownership has been the primary driver of wealth generation in the U.S. since World War II. Home equity is often a way for Americans to have a financial safety net at times of economic trouble, as seen in the pandemic.

These problems get worse when broken out by racial backgrounds. Black and Latino homeowners have less in savings than their white counterparts. White potential homeowners also have generational wealth to potentially tap in the form of a down payment.

"The diverging circumstances between those with the resources to weather the economic shutdowns and those struggling to simply stay afloat thus widened already large inequalities in income and wealth," said the Harvard researchers.

Outside of a massive increase in homebuilding, researchers at Harvard pointed to government home affordability programs as likely the best solution to address the problem long term.

"Any of a number of new proposals to provide down payment assistance to socially disadvantaged buyers would potentially bring millions of low-income households and households of color into homeownership." □



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# Loan relief granted to defrauded for-profit college students

By COLLIN BINKLEY  
AP Education Writer

The U.S. Education Department said Wednesday it's erasing student debt for thousands of borrowers who attended a for-profit college chain that made exaggerated claims about its graduates' success in finding jobs.

The Biden administration said it is approving 18,000 loan forgiveness claims from former students of ITT Technical Institute, a chain that closed in 2016 after being dealt a series of sanctions by the Obama administration. The new loan discharges will clear more than \$500 million in debt.

The move marks a step forward in the Biden administration's effort to clear a backlog of claims in the borrower defense program, which provides loan forgiveness to students who were defrauded by their colleges. Claims piled up during the Trump administration, which stalled the program and only started processing claims after a federal court demanded it. There are now more than 100,000 pending claims.

In announcing the new action, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona vowed to continue standing up for students who are deceived by their schools.

"Our action today will give thousands of borrowers a fresh start and the relief they deserve," Cardona said in a statement. "Many of these borrowers have waited a long time for relief, and we need to work swiftly to render decisions for those whose claims are still pending."

It follows another round of loan discharges in March, when the Education Department cleared \$1 billion in federal student debt for 72,000 borrowers. Those claims all came from former students of for-profit colleges.

Borrower advocates applauded the new approvals but called for swift relief for the thousands of other students whose claims are still pending, including many who attended ITT Tech.



Students find the doors locked to the ITT Technical Institute campus in Rancho Cordova, Calif.  
Associated Press

"It appears the Biden administration genuinely wants to help people who are owed discharges," said Alex Elson, vice president of Student Defense, a Washington legal group. "But that makes it all the more confounding that they are so hesitant to use their authority to immediately and automatically help the countless additional borrowers who are still waiting." Borrower defense is among several education programs targeted for an overhaul by the Biden administration as it works to reverse Trump-era policies. Cardona is hosting a series of hearings this month as his agency considers changes to that policy and others. The program was rarely used until 2015, when the Education Department received thousands of claims from former students of Corinthian Colleges. The chain of for-profit colleges had recently shut down following findings that it lied to

students about job placement rates.

Following the collapse of Corinthian and other beleaguered for-profit colleges, the Obama administration moved to make it easier for students to get loans erased. But the overhaul was reversed by the Trump administration, which later

wrote its own rules making it tougher to get relief. In changing the rules, then-Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said it had become too easy to get loans forgiven.

Cardona began chipping away at DeVos' rules in March when he rescinded a formula that allowed the

Education Department to give only partial loan discharges to students whose claims were approved. All borrowers granted relief will now get their loans cleared in full.

Many of the 18,000 claims from ITT Tech were approved after the Education Department found that the company lied about graduates' job prospects. The agency said ITT made "repeated and significant misrepresentations" about its ability to help students get jobs. In reality, many students said it was harder to find employment when they listed ITT on their resumes, the department said.

Other claims were approved after the department found that ITT misled students about their ability to transfer course credits to other colleges. Credits were rarely accepted elsewhere, the department said, leaving students with "little to no progress" in their academic careers.

Borrowers will be notified about their claim approvals in the coming weeks, the agency said. □



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# American Samoa culture plays role in U.S. citizenship ruling

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLER

Associated Press

**HONOLULU (AP)** — In a decision citing American Samoa cultural traditions, those born in the U.S. territory shouldn't have citizenship automatically forced on them, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling reverses a lower court ruling that sided with three people from American Samoa who live in Utah and sued to be recognized as citizens. The judge ruled the Utah residents are entitled to birthright citizenship under the 14th Amendment. He then put his ruling on hold pending appeal.

U.S. Congress should play a bigger role than the courts in deciding citizenship for those in territories, the appeals court ruling said.

American Samoa is the only unincorporated territory of the United States where the inhabitants are not American citizens at birth.

Instead, those born in the cluster of islands some 2,600 miles (4,184 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii



In this Jan. 10, 2020 file photo, Filipo Ilaoa, left, and Bonnelley Pa'uulu pose with the flag of American Samoa at the American Samoa government office in Honolulu.

Associated Press

are granted "U.S. national" status, meaning they can't vote for U.S. president, run for office outside American Samoa or apply for certain jobs. The only federal election they can cast a vote in is the race for American Samoa's nonvoting U.S. House seat.

The ruling notes that American Samoa government

leaders and others opposed the lawsuit because they are concerned automatic citizenship could disrupt cultural traditions, such as communal land ownership and social structures organized around large, extended families led by matai, those with hereditary chieftain titles.

"There is simply insufficient

caselaw to conclude with certainty that citizenship will have no effect on the legal status of the fa'a Samoa," or the American Samoan way of life, the ruling said. "The constitutional issues that would arise in the context of American Samoa's unique culture and social structure would be unusual, if not entirely novel, and therefore

unpredictable."

Drawing on the views of the American Samoa people is one of the more gratifying aspects of the ruling, said Michael Williams, an attorney representing the American Samoa government, which intervened to oppose the lawsuit.

"It is also vindication for the principle that the people of American Samoa should determine their own status in accordance with Samoan culture and traditions," he said.

A path toward U.S. citizenship exists for those who want it. But some say it's costly and cumbersome. Non-citizen nationals of American Samoa are entitled to work and travel freely in the United States and receive certain advantages in the naturalization process.

Neil Weare, one of the attorneys representing the plaintiffs, said they are disappointed by the ruling, and are reviewing next steps. Options include asking a wider panel of appeals court judges to hear the case or taking it to the U.S. Supreme Court. □

# Senate approves bill to make Juneteenth a federal holiday



This updated handout photo provided by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 shows a signed copy of Emancipation Proclamation.

Associated Press

By KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Senate passed a bill Tuesday that would make Juneteenth, or June 19th, a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the

United States.

The bill would lead to Juneteenth becoming the 12th federal holiday. It is expected to easily pass the House, which would send it to President Joe Biden for his signature.

Juneteenth commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free. Confederate soldiers surrendered in April 1865, but word didn't reach the last enslaved Black people until June 19, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to Galveston, Texas. That was also about two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in the Southern states.

"Making Juneteenth a federal holiday is a major step forward to recognize the wrongs of the past," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "But we must continue to work to ensure equal justice and fulfill the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation and our Constitution." The Senate passed the bill under a unanimous con-

sent agreement that expedites the process for considering legislation. It takes just one senator's objection to block such agreements. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., had objected in the previous Congress to a bill to celebrate Juneteenth as a federal holiday because of the cost and lack of debate, he said. Johnson noted that he has supported resolutions recognizing the significance of Juneteenth, but he was concerned the new holiday would give federal employees another day off at a cost of about \$600 million per year.

"While it still seems strange that having taxpayers provide federal employees paid time off is now required to celebrate the end of slavery, it is clear that there is no appetite in Congress to further discuss the matter. Therefore, I do

not intend to object," Johnson said in a statement before Tuesday's vote.

The bill is sponsored by Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., and had 60 co-sponsors. He tweeted Monday: "We have a long road towards racial justice in the United States and we cannot get there without acknowledging our nation's original sin of slavery. It is long past time to make Juneteenth a federal holiday."

The vast majority of states recognize Juneteenth as a holiday or have an official observance of the day, and most states hold celebrations. Juneteenth is a paid holiday for state employees in Texas, New York, Virginia and Washington. Under the legislation, the federal holiday would be known as Juneteenth National Independence Day. □



# British lawyer Karim Khan sworn in as ICC's chief prosecutor

By **MIKE CORDER**

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — British lawyer Karim Khan was sworn in Wednesday as the new chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court, pledging to reach out to nations that are not members of the court in his quest to end impunity for atrocities and to try to hold trials in countries where crimes are committed.

Khan, a 51-year-old English lawyer, has years of experience in international courts as a prosecutor, investigator and defense attorney. He takes over from Fatou Bensouda of Gambia, whose nine-year term ended Tuesday.

"The priority for me, and I believe that's the principle of the Rome Statute, is not to focus so much on where trials take place, but to ensure that the quest for accountability and inroads on impunity are made," Khan said, referring to the treaty that founded the court, in his first speech after taking his oath of office.

"The Hague itself should be a city of last resort," he said. "Wherever possible, we should be trying to have trials in the country or in the region."

Khan said he wanted to work with countries that are not among the court's 123 member states to achieve justice. World powers the United States, Russia and China are not members and do not recognize the court's jurisdiction. "My conviction is that we can find common ground in the quest and in the imperative to ensure we erad-



In this Monday, June 4, 2007 file photo, lawyer Karim Khan adjust his headphones in the courtroom of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Associated Press

icate genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes," Khan said. Most recently, Khan led a United Nations team investigating atrocities in Iraq, telling the Security Council last month that he uncovered "clear and compelling evidence" that Islamic State extremists committed genocide against the Yazidi minority in 2014. In

the past, he has defended clients at international courts including former Liberian President Charles Taylor and Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto. ICC prosecutors dropped charges against Ruto and President Uhuru Kenyatta of involvement in deadly post-election violence in their country. Khan begins his nine-year

term as the court's prosecution office is struggling to keep up with demands for investigations. The court prosecutes genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in nations unable or unwilling to carry out their own prosecutions. He said he wants to reform the office and immediately address what he called a "gender and geographical imbalance" among its staff. He also said prosecutors, who have lost several high profile cases in recent years, have to improve their performances in court. "We have to perform in trial," Khan said. "We cannot invest so much. We cannot raise expectations so high and achieve so little so often in the courtroom."

His predecessor told The Associated Press in an interview Monday that there is "a serious mismatch" between what the prosecutor's office needs to do its work and what it is getting from the court's member nations. "We have more or less had an explosion of cases that we are supposed to be handling, but we cannot do it without adequate resources," Bensouda told the AP. □

# Israel to halt nighttime 'mapping' of Palestinian homes

By **ILAN BEN ZION**

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — The Israeli military says it is reining in a controversial practice of conducting late-night raids of Palestinian homes in the West Bank aimed at gathering information about the houses and their inhabitants.

The military has in the past defended the practice, known as "intelligence mapping," as a necessary measure to counter militant groups. But human rights groups say the policy served only to intimidate civilians.

Under the practice, soldiers would rouse families in the middle of the night to document the dimensions and inhabitants of homes in the occupied territory. Rights

groups said the raids, conducted in homes where no one was suspected of illegal activities, served no strategic purpose and caused deep psychological trauma.

The change in policy came half a year after Yesh Din, Physicians for Human Rights Israel, and Breaking the Silence, three Israeli activist groups, published a report on what they described as "arbitrary invasions" of private Palestinian homes. They said the practice "effectively serves as a means to oppress and intimidate the Palestinian population and increase control over it."

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war.

While the internationally

recognized Palestinian Authority administers autonomous zones within the territory, Israel retains overall control and frequently conducts military raids even in Palestinian-controlled areas.

Today, almost 3 million Palestinians live in the West Bank, according to official Palestinian figures, alongside nearly half a million Israeli settlers.

The Palestinians seek the entire West Bank as the heartland of an independent state, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem. Israel says the West Bank is disputed territory whose fate should be resolved through negotiations. Most of the international community considers the West Bank occupied



In this May 12, 2020 file photo, Israeli soldiers patrol after a soldier was killed when a rock thrown off a rooftop struck him in the head during an arrest raid, in the village of Yabad near the West Bank city of Jenin.

Associated Press

territory and Israeli settlements to be illegal and obstacles to peace. In a letter to Yesh Din on Tuesday, the army said its raids "were not random operations" and were "in-

tended for an operational-intelligence purpose." It said there were strict guidelines for such operations "in order to minimize the damage and disturbance to the residents' quality of life." □



# Junta troops burn Myanmar village in escalation of violence

By **GRANT PECK**

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Government troops in Myanmar have burned most of a village in the country's central heartland, a resident said Wednesday, confirming reports by independent media and on social networks. The action appeared to be an attempt to suppress resistance against the ruling military junta.

The attack is the latest example of how violence has become endemic in much of Myanmar in recent months as the junta tries to subdue an incipient nationwide insurrection. After the army seized power in February, overthrowing the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, a non-violent civil disobedience movement arose to challenge military rule, but the junta's attempt to repress it with deadly force fueled rather than quelled resistance.

Photos and videos of devastated Kinma village in Magway region that circulated widely on social media on Wednesday showed much of the village flattened by fire and the charred bodies of farm animals. One report said the village had about



Smoke rises from smoldering houses in Kinma village, Pauk township, Magwe division, central Myanmar, Wednesday June 16, 2021.

Associated Press

1,000 residents.

A villager contacted by phone said only 10 of 237 houses were left standing. The villager, who asked that his name not be used because of fear of government reprisals, said most residents had already fled when soldiers firing guns entered the village shortly before noon on Tuesday.

He said he believed the troops were searching for members of a village de-

fense force that had been established to protect against the junta's troops and police. Most such local forces are very lightly armed with homemade hunting rifles.

The village defense force gave residents advance warning of the troops' arrival, so only four or five people were left in the village when they began searching houses in the afternoon. When they found nothing,

they began setting the homes on fire, he said.

"There are some forests just nearby our village. Most of us fled into the forests," he said.

The villager said he believed there were three casualties, a boy who was a goat-herder who was shot in the thigh, and an elderly couple who were unable to flee.

He believed the couple had died but several me-

dia reports said they were missing.

Asked if he planned to go back to the village, he said: "No, we dare not to. We think it isn't over. We will shift to other villages.

Even if we go back to our village, there is no place to stay because everything is burnt."

The village defense forces are committed to forming a future opposition federal army, and some have allied themselves with ethnic minority groups in border areas that have been fighting for decades for autonomy from the central government.

Most of the fiercest fighting takes place in the border regions, where government forces are deployed in areas controlled by ethnic groups such as the Chin in the west, the Kachin in the north and the Karenni in the east.

The incident in Kinma attracted special attention because the Burman, or Bamar ethnic group, the country's power-holding majority, is predominant in the Magway region and it is unusual for them to be targeted for such severe measures. □

# N Korea's Kim looks much thinner, causing health speculation



This combination of file photos provided by the North Korean government, shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at Workers' Party meetings in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Feb. 8, 2021, left, and June 15, 2021.

Associated Press

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG**

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — The health of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has long been a source of morbid fascination in rival South Korea, which sits in the shadow of Kim's 1.2-million-strong army and his

growing arsenal of nuclear-armed missiles.

Has he gained even more weight? Is he struggling for breath after relatively short walks? What about that cane? Why did he miss that important state anniversary?

Now, the 37-year-old fac-

es fresh speculation in the South about his health again. But this time, it's because he's noticeably slimmer.

Kim's health matters in Seoul, Washington, Tokyo and other world capitals because he hasn't publicly anointed a successor who would control an advancing nuclear program targeting the United States and its allies if he is incapacitated. North Korea, never open about the internal workings of its leadership, has over the last year shut itself up even tighter to protect against the coronavirus pandemic.

In recent state media images, including those published on Wednesday, Kim appeared to have lost a large amount of weight. The strap on his fancy watch is tighter, and his

face thinner. Some observers say Kim who is about 170 centimeters (5 feet, 8 inches) tall and has previously weighed 140 kilograms (308 pounds) may have lost about 10-20 kilograms (22-44 pounds).

Kim's apparent weight loss is more likely an attempt to improve his health, rather than a sign of illness, according to Hong Min, a senior analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

"If he was experiencing health problems, he wouldn't have come out in public to convene the plenary meeting of the Workers' Party's Central Committee," a major political conference this week that is expected to last two to three days, Hong said.

Kim, known for heavy drinking and smoking, comes

from a family with a history of heart problems. His father and grandfather, who ruled North Korea before him, both died of heart issues.

Experts have said his weight could increase the possibility of cardiovascular diseases.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said it has no information to share about Kim's health. His slimmer look has been the focus of keen interest in South Korea, with media outlets publishing photos of his previous and current appearances.

Seo Yu-Seok at the Seoul-based Institute of North Korean Studies said the North's recent creation of a first secretary of the ruling Workers' Party, the country's No. 2 job, might have been related to Kim's possible health issues. □



# U.S. and Mexico seek ways to do more on irregular immigration

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN  
Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)**—In consecutive visits this month, Vice President Kamala Harris and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas have conveyed to the most important U.S. partner that the Biden administration is taking a more nuanced approach to immigration than its predecessor, but still asking what more Mexico can do.

Mayorkas said Tuesday at the conclusion of two days of high-level meetings: "We have challenged one another with respect to what more can each of us do to address the level of irregular migration that has persisted for several months."

In May, encounters with migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border inched up from April to more than 180,000, more than double the number in January, according to data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Record arrivals of migrant children have been especially challenging for the Biden administration, as they were for his predecessors, with the U.S. government picking up nearly 60,000 children traveling without their parents across the Mexican border from February to May.

When then President Donald Trump threatened damaging tariffs on all Mexican imports unless Mexico did more to stem the flow of migrants in 2019, Mexico deployed its newly created National Guard to boost enforcement efforts. The Biden administration is taking what Mayorkas called a "multipronged approach" and he rejected any suggestion that the White House had sent mixed messages that could have encouraged more migration to the border.

Harris is leading U.S. efforts to identify and address the root causes of immigration. On her visit to Guatemala and Mexico earlier this month, she urged Central Americans not to try to reach the U.S. border while also trying to give people a sense of hope that would encourage them to stay



In this May 17, 2021 file photo, a group of migrants mainly from Honduras and Nicaragua wait along a road after turning themselves in upon crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, in La Joya, Texas. Associated Press

home.

The Biden administration has struggled to show a more compassionate face on U.S. immigration policies and undo some of Trump's harshest measures while not spurring more migration.

Samantha Power, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, has been visiting the Northern Triangle countries this week announcing new aid aimed at improving conditions there. Power and Harris have spoken against the endemic corruption in the region and the need for greater economic opportunity.

Mayorkas said other elements of that approach were opening alternative legal pathways to the U.S., including the expansion of the Central American Minors Program announced Tuesday.

The Biden administration announced Tuesday that it was expanding a newly revived effort to bring Central American children to the United States to reunite with parents legally living in the country.

Trump announced in August 2017 that he was halting the Central American Minors Program in August 2017 in his crackdown on immigration.

The U.S. restarted the pro-

gram in March for children from Guatemala, Honduras or El Salvador who had applied to be paroled into the United States before Trump ended the program. The expansion announced Tuesday makes eligible families whose parents are in the U.S. with various forms of legal status, including green cards and Temporary Protected Status for designated countries afflicted by natural disasters or civil strife.

Parents with pending asylum claims and people who applied for visas for crime victims before May 15 may also be eligible to bring their children from Central America.

The administration didn't say how many people may be covered by the expansion but Mayorkas and Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a joint statement that the changes will "dramatically expand" eligibility.

The visits to the region for Harris, Mayorkas and Power were all their first foreign trips for a new administration, sending a message that the region's problems have its attention.

Mexico has other priorities, in particular reopening to the U.S.-Mexico border, which has been closed to non-essential travel for more than a year.

Juárez and Reynosa. Mexico has said the goal is to boost vaccination rates there to levels similar to the U.S. cities they adjoin.

Mexico Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said that after the vaccinations "there will be no public health arguments for keeping the border closed."

Later, Ebrard added via Twitter that he had told Mayorkas that Mexico wanted to accelerate the vaccination of people living along their shared border so that life there can return to normal. "The Secretary indicated that facilitating trade, tourism and travel is his priority," Ebrard wrote.

"We both also understand the economic consequences of the restrictions on not only the border communities of Mexico, but the border of the United States," Mayorkas said.

On the touchy subject of security cooperation, Mayorkas said he emerged from a meeting with Mexican Attorney General Alejandro Gertz Manero "optimistic." □

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cept on the island, we're sure you will fall completely in love with this.

### A bit about Griet and Martijn

Vanbrabant is a passionate chef with over 15 years of experience in fine dining menu development, culinary staff management, food preparation and creative recipe design.

She is educated in classic French Cuisine and Modern Gastronomy teachings throughout her international career in Michelin star and the World's 50 Best restaurants such as El Bulli and Comerç 24 in Barcelona, Pujol in Mexico City, Rockpool in Australia. Let her entice you with her succulent, Aruban recipes like they've never tasted before.

Sometimes combining the best of the best is a matter of all things falling into place. Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 7pm you are welcomed to enter a world where food is a passion. Papillon Restaurant presents their guest chefs, Vanbrabant and Liebrechts- who will be on the island for a limited time period - and with The Chef's Garden menu being a fresh con-

Liebrechts is the perfect example of when career and passion come together. He earned his spurs at Ambe, one of the best French fine dining restaurants Hong Kong has to offer, with 2 Michelin-stars and ranked as the 24th best restaurant in the world. Amber has been the place where he got inspired by the



use of Asian ingredients prepared in a classical French way which is still the base of his nowadays cooking style. Moving back to Amsterdam, The Netherlands, he joined the team of former Bib Gourmand restaurant "Wilde Zwijnen", which was awarded the title "The New Dutch Cuisine" by the New York Times. He has been there and done it all around the world.

ence where you will feel you are part of an exclusive setting. Private culinary events are the owner's specialty and their lush, tropical garden is also inviting for you to relax and indulge in hours of authentic culinary delights, a heaven to foodies. For more than a decade, Papillon restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. They know how to thrill and in collaboration with The Secret Garden we can only expect phenomenal.

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## Covid-19: the status on Aruba

**ORANJESTAD** —Rules and protocols are being reviewed and evaluated on a daily basis and adapted as per current situation by a crisis team, in order to protect each and every one visiting and residing our island.

### Current numbers

There are currently 21 active Covid cases on the island. 19 residents and 2 non-residents. There are no persons hospitalized. 107 persons lost their battle against the Covid virus of which 1 of them is a non-resident. A total of 172,026 persons have been tested of which 119,608 were tested at the airport. A total of 66,342 persons have received the Pfizer vaccine, which represents 67% of the total population. Aiming for 85% of the total population by end of June 2021.

Measurement by the Government of Aruba effective as of Wednesday June 9th, 2021:

- Masks are no longer mandatory but they are recommended when 1.5 meter social distancing is not possible. Establishments however are allowed to require people to wear masks to enter and this must be followed if it applies.
- No more government restrictions regarding supermarkets but as stated above each supermarket can have their individual regulations that must be followed.
- Public parking lots are no longer restricted zones.
- There is no more gathering ban.
- Bars can now be open and people are al-



- lowed to sit at bars again.
- Live music is now permitted with no maximum number of musicians. No dancing.
- Spectators are now allowed for sporting events and contact sports are now permitted to take place.
- Locals who have been vaccinated are no longer required to quarantine for two weeks with contact tracing if they had been in contact with a per-

son who tested positive. Vaccine is proving to be 95% effective.

- All restaurants and establishments are required to close by 11:00pm. This does not include establishments on hotel properties such as restaurants.
- Restaurants have a maximum of eight adults seated together inside and 10 outside. Children under 12 do not count towards the maximum numbers
- All casinos must close by 1:00am.
- Beach weddings are allowed, but no dancing is allowed and Covid protocols must be followed.

More information on travel and health requirements can be found on [www.aruba.com](http://www.aruba.com). □

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## Marine News

**SAVANETA** — Defense on Aruba is the responsibility of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Netherlands Military forces that protect Aruba include the Royal Netherlands Navy, the Netherlands Marine Corps and the Netherlands Coastguard. There is also a small indigenous “Arubaanse Militie” (ARUMIL) of about platoon strength. All forces are stationed at Marines Barracks Savaneta. Here are

some activities that have been happening lately with the marines.

### Hurricane Exercise completed

Defense in the Caribbean 'Returns to base' of Hurricane Exercise Upperwind Islands

At Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius and Saba, the Hurricane Exercise has been completed. The focus was on logistics relocation from



Aruba, Curaçao and the Netherlands towards the (practice) disaster area during a possible hurricane adjustment. This was done by both the air and the sea, with the last one the transport ship Zr. Ms. Pelican played a crucial role. Explorations have been made on the islands so that soldiers can easily know their way there if they have to operate there. In addition, various infrastructure facilities have been considered, such as power plants, bridges and the state of a

number of roofs. Loose debris can be a major threat if it is taken by strong wind gusts.

Various parties such as the World Health Organisation and the Dutch Representation of the Netherlands have given presentations to executives about their working methods. This allows for cooperation quickly and effectively during a possible hurricane adjustment.

The department responsible for communication between units successfully established various types of connections for this exercise. Connections are conditional for a good effort. Defense is ready for the population within the Kingdom where needed, anywhere in the world.

### All Hens

An All Hens took place at the Marine Barrack in Savaneta last week. It looked back at the past six months and looked forward to the coming period.

A silver medal has been awarded, which stands for 24 years of honest and faithful service.

Two colleagues of the Royal Army were allowed to receive their Bronze medal, which stands for 12 years of honest and faithful service. Two colleagues from the ARUMIL also received the Aruban medal. This medal represents 6 years of loyal service at the Aruban Military.

During these all hands, there were 6 colleagues promoted, an officer and 5 petty officers. In addition, colleagues were highlighted with rewards being awarded.

### Beach clean-up

Last weekend MSKSAV staff did a beach clean-up on the North Coast of Aruba. About 40 marines have cleaned up littering around the Lighthouse and Alto Vista chapel area. This turned out not to be unreal, about a truck full of dirt was removed from nature. □



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# Millennial Money: It's time for better employee benefits

By **KELSEY SHEEHY** of **Nerd-Wallet**

Vaccination rates are climbing and employers are rolling out back-to-office, back-to-normal plans. But some employees may want a new normal — one that includes flexible scheduling and benefits that align with their needs and values.

"Expectations have changed. They were already changing, but with COVID-19, the how and where and why we work have all been transformed," says Erika Illiano, a principal at Strategic Benefit Advisors, a member company of Brown & Brown Insurance.

Social justice issues amplified over the past year have also prompted some people to expect more from their employers.

"We are all, as human beings, more acutely aware of the world that we live in. That is absolutely spilling over into the workplace and impacting our expectations of what corporate citizenship looks like. Benefits are a part of that," Illiano says.

## **PUSHING FOR CHANGE**

Health insurance, paid vacation and retirement tools should be the baseline, not the bar, for employer-provided benefits. Employees want benefits that meet their needs, not the needs of previous generations.



In this Friday, May 21, 2021 file photo, a customer walks behind a sign at a Nordstrom store seeking employees, in Coral Gables, Fla.

Associated Press

Benefits that reflect the times include tuition stipends, student loan repayment assistance, remote work, mental health resources and other wellness benefits.

Any offerings also need to be viewed through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion, Illiano says.

"Millennials more than any other generation in the workforce, they expect it," she says. "If you're designing a medical/leave program that's inclusive, ask yourself: Is your paternity leave as long as your ma-

ternity leave? If not, why? Are you offering leave to just birth parents? What about domestic partners? Adoptive parents?"

If you need more from your employer's benefits, you can and should ask for it. Just be strategic in how you make the case.

## **— GO IN WITH DATA.**

Asking for a new perk? Bring numbers to back up your request.

If you're advocating for paid time off to volunteer, for example, build the case by noting that 26% of companies offer this benefit,

according to a 2019 report by the Society for Human Resource Management. (Even better, find out if any competitors offer the benefit you're seeking.)

Want your company to consider student loan repayment stipends? Point out that 34% of employees said they would be more likely to stay at their job if their employer offered student loan assistance, according to a May 2020 survey by Gift of College, a crowdfunding platform.

If you don't have compelling data to back you up,

bring it back to your company's mission and values statements.

## **— HAVE A PLAN FOR THE "NO."**

Your ask may not be green-lit right off the bat. If your request is shot down, try to understand the reasoning behind the "no."

"Is it a 'no' because of budget? Because no one has raised it before and they don't believe it's a need? Or are they planning to allocate money to areas that would also be beneficial?" Illiano says. "That would dictate your next move."

If your employer doesn't believe it's a widespread need, survey your colleagues or circulate a petition to bring to your human resources department. If money has been allocated elsewhere, find out when your company revisits benefits each year and make a plan to restate your case.

## **— GET A SEAT AT THE TABLE.**

Does your company have a committee or resource group that advises the benefits team? If so, ask for a seat at the table. If not, suggest creating one and offer to recruit a diverse group of employees to participate. You'll show you're interested in improving the company's overall benefits program, rather than securing a one-off perk for yourself. You'll also gain insight into how benefit decisions are made at the company. □

# Self-driving car pioneer Waymo gets \$2.5B to fuel ambitions

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)** — Waymo, the self-driving car pioneer spun off from Google, isn't allowing a recent wave of executive departures to detour its plans to expand its robotic taxi service.

The Mountain View, California, company made that clear Wednesday by announcing it has raised another \$2.5 billion from a group of investors ranging from venture capital firms such as Andreessen Horowitz to a major car dealer, AutoNation.

With the latest fundraising, Waymo has raised a total

of \$5.7 billion in the past 15 months as it tries to build upon a driverless ride-hailing service that it has been operating in the Phoenix area.

The latest fundraising comes after Waymo's longtime CEO, John Krafcik, stepped down in April, followed by the departures of the company's chief financial officer and head of automotive partnerships.

Waymo is now being led by co-CEOs, Dmitri Dolgov and Tekedra Mawakana, who said the company plans to use the investment to continue to hone the

technology that was first hatched inside of Google as a secret project more than a decade ago.

Google later spun out Waymo as a separate subsidiary owned by the same corporate parent, Alphabet Inc. Waymo now operates as part of an Alphabet division called "Other Bets," which has lost nearly \$13 billion in the past years.

Even so, analysts have estimated Waymo may be worth about \$30 billion — an estimate reflecting the high hopes that autonomous driving technology may finally realize its prom-



In this April 7, 2021 file photo, a Waymo minivan arrives to pick up passengers for an autonomous vehicle ride, in Mesa, Ariz.

Associated Press

ise to revolutionize the way people get around. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**  
43 Locker room need  
1 Cat's quarry  
6 No longer a minor

**DOWN**  
11 Deed holder  
12 Shady spot  
13 More mature

**Yesterday's answer**  
4 Spots  
5 Unpredictable  
6 President born in Hawaii  
7 Shrewd  
8 Cobbler's tool  
9 "My word!"  
10 Hosp. parts  
16 Steps aside, in court  
17 Small bottles  
18 Parts of hearts  
20 Mangled  
21 Dancer  
22 Avoid  
24 Jar part  
25 Put away  
27 Sideways pass  
31 Setting filler  
33 Vatican VIP  
34 Ripped  
35 Diamond club  
36 Swelled head  
37 Attorney's concern  
39 Lennon's love  
40 Sought a seat



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is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-17 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

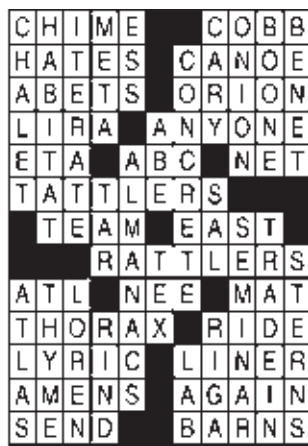
PBSZ EI XEJZ SZOMZ. EV EI

YBV O KEAV AGBN KBT. EV EI

O KEAV BYXD FZ MOY KELZ

BYZ OYBVPZG. — ZXEZ FEZIZX

Yesterday's Cryptquote: THE RIGHT TO BE LET ALONE IS INDEED THE BEGINNING OF ALL FREEDOM. — WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS



Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., pauses for reporters after a meeting of the House Democratic Caucus, Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

## Study: Half of U.S. cosmetics contain toxic chemicals

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — More than half the cosmetics sold in the United States and Canada are awash with a toxic industrial compound associated with serious health conditions, including cancer and reduced birth weight, according to a new study.

Researchers at the University of Notre Dame tested more than 230 commonly used cosmetics and found that 56% of foundations and eye products, 48% of lip products and 47% of mascaras contained fluorine — an indicator of PFAS, so-called "forever chemicals" that are used in non-stick frying pans, rugs and countless other consumer products.

Some of the highest PFAS levels were found in waterproof mascara (82%) and long-lasting lipstick (62%), according to the study published Tuesday in the journal Environmental Science & Technology Letters. Twenty-nine products with higher fluorine concentrations were tested further and found to contain between four and 13 specific PFAS chemicals, the study found. Only one item listed PFAS, or perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, as an ingredient on the label.

A spokeswoman for the U.S.

Food and Drug Administration, which regulates cosmetics, said the agency does not comment on specific studies. The FDA said on its website that there have been few studies of the presence of the chemicals in cosmetics, and the ones published generally found the concentration is at very low levels not likely to harm people, in the parts per billion level to the 100s of parts per million. A fact sheet posted on the agency's website says that, "As the science on PFAS in cosmetics continues to advance, the FDA will continue to monitor" voluntary data submitted by industry as well as published research.

But PFAS chemicals are an issue of increasing concern for lawmakers who are working to regulate their use in consumer products. The study results were announced as a bipartisan group of senators introduced a bill to ban the use of PFAS in cosmetics and other beauty products.

The move to ban PFAS comes as Congress considers wide-ranging legislation to set a national drinking water standard for certain PFAS chemicals and clean up contaminated sites across the country, including military bases where

high rates of PFAS have been discovered.

"There is nothing safe and nothing good about PFAS," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who introduced the cosmetics bill with Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. "These chemicals are a menace hidden in plain sight that people literally display on their faces every day."

Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., who has sponsored several PFAS-related bills in the House, said she has looked for PFAS in her own makeup and lipstick, but could not see if they were present because the products were not properly labeled.

"How do I know it doesn't have PFAS?" she asked at a news conference Tuesday, referring to the eye makeup, foundation and lipstick she was wearing.

The Environmental Protection Agency also is moving to collect industry data on PFAS chemical uses and health risks as it considers regulations to reduce potential risks caused by the chemicals.

But Graham Peaslee, a physics professor at Notre Dame and the principal investigator of the study, said the cosmetics poses an immediate and long-term risk. □



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# Q&A: Rita Moreno on finding self-worth and never giving up

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Rita Moreno emigrated with her mother from Puerto Rico at age five. By six, she was dancing at Greenwich Village nightclubs. By 16, she was working full time. By 20, she was performing in "Singin' in the Rain."

"I can't think of anyone I've ever met in the business who lived the American dream more than Rita Moreno," Norman Lear says in the documentary "Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It."

In the decades that followed, Moreno has won a Tony, a Grammy, an Emmy and an Oscar, for "West Side Story." (Her entire acceptance speech: "I don't believe it.") With seemingly infinite spiritedness, she has epitomized the best of show business while also being a victim to its cruelties. That has made Moreno, who co-stars in Steven Spielberg's upcoming "West Side Story" remake, a heroic figure to Latinos, and to others. "I have never given up," she said in a recent interview by Zoom from her home in Berkeley, California.

The reason for the conversation was Mariem Pérez Riera's intimate and invigorating documentary, which opens in theaters Friday after playing virtually at the Sundance Film Festival and at an outdoor premiere at the Tribeca Festival. The film opens with Moreno preparing a Cuban themed party for her 87th birthday. "And I demand costumes," the screen legend says with a smile.

As upbeat as Moreno remains, "Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It" also deals frankly with the many turbulences of Moreno's life: being positioned as the "Spanish Elizabeth Taylor" and the stereotyped casting that followed; a long



Rita Moreno attends the premiere of "Rita Moreno: Just A Girl Who Decided To Go For It" during the 20th Tribeca Festival at Pier 76 on Saturday, June 12, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

and painful relationship with Marlon Brando; the abuse of her agent; a confining marriage.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP: What struck me most watching the film is that despite going through what would defeat or embitter most, you seem to have emerged with such joy and appreciation for life.**

**Moreno:** I have a very strong constitution. Maybe you inherit it. Maybe it's due to learning how to cope with my tumultuous life through psychotherapy. I really credit that for helping me through some really, really bad times. My mom was like that, too. And you know what? I have a feeling that a lot of people who are outliers have strong

constitutions because it's either sink or swim, right? And I think you learn early on in life that swimming is preferable to sinking.

**AP: How early did you learn that?**

**Moreno:** The first test, I think, was learning English in kindergarten when I didn't know a word, not a word. That's the first thing that happened to me literally when I came to this country. Children are impressively resilient. And then, in a way, they're also extremely tender and fragile. I think the reason I ending up having such a hard time in life is that I ran into a racial bias very early on. When you're young — I mean 5, 6, 7 — and people call you bad names like "spic" or "garlic mouth" or "gold tooth," like

in "West Side Story," you're tender, you're a child. You believe these things. You believe that you're not worthy.

**AP: Your life seems to be this long process of unlearning the cruel or wrong things you were told about yourself.**

**Moreno:** What a wonderful way to put it. You're absolutely on the money. I had to learn that I was a person of value like all other people. But it's very difficult when you learn something from childhood. It's not as though I came to this country when I was 20 and learned something different. I was a little girl and you're very impressionable. You believe that you don't have value. You don't know why you don't have it, but you believe it. And, man, that is so hard to get rid of.

**AP: Your central therapy session followed years with Marlon Brando. In your memoir, you spoke about him as your greatest lover but your time with him was torturous.**

**Moreno:** Here's what's hilarious to me. It was he who said to me: "You need help. You need therapy." So the lunatic is telling the crazy woman that she needs help! (Laughs). But he was right! He was right. I remember the day he said that to me, I thought: "Yeah, but he's crazy as a loon!"

**AP: After "West Side Story," you've said you were offered only similar, stereotypical roles for years.**

**Moreno:** Those were brutal. Brutal! When I got the Oscar and the Golden Globe, I thought: "OK, finally." And that's not what happened at all. In fact, it was the opposite. I was offered more Anita-type roles when I was offered something, which was not that frequent. I made a decision not to accept any more of those kinds of roles. It was a lot of coffee pourers, housewives and stuff. I said I'm not going to do them anymore. Ha-ha, I showed them. I didn't make a movie for seven years. I mean, how stubborn can you get?

**AP: You recently revisited "West Side Story" with Spielberg. How was that?**

**Moreno:** It was just grand. I've been a fan of Steven's work for years. When he called, he offered me a part in "West Side Story." I nearly peed my pants because this is Steven Spielberg, one of my idols. I said to him that I would love to do a cameo, but I said, "You don't really want me to do that, do you?" And he said, "Oh, no, no. It's a part. It's a real part. Tony Kushner wrote it for you." First of all, Tony Kushner's writing the script? What! I was thrilled. I was excited the way a child would be excited.

**AP: I don't imagine you do, but do you have any regrets?**

**Moreno:** If I can't have all the movies I always wanted to be in — which are all the Meryl Streep movies, I wanted to be her — but if I can't do that, I've done pretty well, considering. And I think I've left an important legacy in a very, very meaningful sense and that is: That I have never gave up. □





# Jokic leads All-NBA team; MVP runner-up Embiid 2nd-team pick

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Basketball Writer

Denver's Nikola Jokic was the runaway MVP this season, which made it a virtual certainty that he would also be an All-NBA first-team selection.

Here's the rarity: The MVP runner-up was not a first-team selection.

Jokic headlined the All-NBA first team that was unveiled Tuesday night, but Philadelphia's Joel Embiid — who was second in the MVP race — only made the second team. Jokic and Embiid are primarily centers, in the eyes of most voters, and that meant they were vying for that position on the first team.

The rest of the first team: Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo (the only unanimous first-team selection) and the Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard at forward, along with Golden State's Stephen Curry and Dallas' Luka Doncic at guard.

The second team picks, along with Embiid at center, were the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James and New York's Julius Randle at forward, plus Portland's Damian Lillard and Phoenix's Chris Paul at guard.

And the third team selections: Utah's Rudy Gobert at center, Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving and Washington's Bradley Beal at guard, and Miami's Jimmy Butler and the Clippers' Paul George at forward.

"I am humbled and hon-



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) argues for a call with referee Rodney Mott (71) in the first half of Game 4 of an NBA second-round playoff series against the Phoenix Suns, Sunday, June 13, 2021, in Denver.

Associated Press

ored," Beal said.

The All-NBA voting still classifies by position — with two guards, two forwards and a center on each of the three teams — in a league that has gone increasingly positionless. There are 15 players on the final list, which essentially breaks down to the top six guards, top six forwards and top three centers, not necessarily the best 15 players.

And the MVP award has no positional breakdown. Voters choose five players; positions don't matter. For All-NBA, a global panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters who cover the league serve as the selectors.

## RARE INSTANCE

It was the first time since 1994-95 that the MVP runner-up wasn't a first-team selection; it was a collision of two centers for one spot that season as well, with MVP David Robinson getting the first-team nod and runner-up Shaquille O'Neal winding up as the second-team center pick.

There have been similar examples before, and even four instances — albeit none under the current voting format — of the MVP not making the All-NBA first team. It happened to Bill Russell in 1958, 1961 and 1962, and then to Dave Cowens in 1973.

Blake Griffin was third in the

MVP voting in 2013-14; he was also second-team All-NBA that year because he finished behind Kevin Durant and James — the top two MVP votegetters — in the voting for the two forward spots.

The same thing happened to Carmelo Anthony in 2012-13; he was third in the MVP race, behind James and Durant, and was second-team All-NBA as well because they took the two slots at forward. Alonzo Mourning had a similar fate in 1999-2000; he was third in the MVP race, but just second-team All-NBA at center because he was behind O'Neal, that season's MVP.

## MONEY MATTERS

Making All-NBA represents a big payday for Doncic, who is now eligible to sign an extension worth about \$201 million this summer — a raise of about \$33 million over what his max contract value would have been without this All-NBA nod.

But it also was a big hit for players like Boston's Jayson Tatum and Utah's Donovan Mitchell, both of whom could have seen the rookie extensions they agreed to last year rise by \$33 million in total value, from \$163 million for five years to \$196 million. Tatum actually got more votes than Irving, but Irving made the third team because of the positional breakdown. Irving was sixth among guards in the voting; Tatum was seventh among forwards.

## RETURNEES FROM 2020

Doncic and Antetokounmpo were the only first-team picks from last season to be first-teamers again this season. Lillard made All-NBA for the fourth consecutive season, the last three of those coming with him as a second-team pick.

Jokic, Paul and Leonard were second-team selections last season, while Butler was a third-team pick for the second consecutive year and fourth time in five seasons. Paul becomes the 24th player in NBA history to make at least 10 All-NBA teams.

Gobert also made the third team for the third consecutive year, his fourth All-NBA nod overall. □

# Federer fails to make Halle Open quarterfinals for 1st time

**HALLE, Germany (AP)** — Roger Federer failed to reach the Halle Open quarterfinals for the first time Wednesday when Félix Auger-Aliassime rallied from a set down to stun the former champion 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the second round.

The 20-year-old Auger-Aliassime is 19 years younger than the Swiss great, who has won the Halle tournament a record 10 times. Both share the same birth-

day — Aug. 8.

Federer had been going for his 18th quarterfinal in as many appearances at the grass-court tournament, but was unable to deal with his young opponent's change of tactics in the second set. Auger-Aliassime targeted the backhand with his strong serves and the Canadian player converted three break opportunities to win in 1 hour, 45 minutes.

Auger-Aliassime next faces American qualifier Marcos Giron, who later rallied to beat Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 6-7 (1), 6-3, 6-4. Struff had shocked top-seeded Russian Daniil Medvedev on Tuesday.

Also Wednesday, Andrey Rublev defeated Australia's Jordan Thompson 6-4, 6-4 and veteran home favorite Philipp Kohlschreiber beat Corentin Moutet of France 6-4, 7-6 (4). □



Switzerland's Roger Federer wipes his face during his ATP Tour Singles, Men, Round of 16 tennis match against Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime in Halle, Germany, Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

Associated Press



# DeChambeau-Koepka spat overshadowing tough U.S. Open course



**Bryson DeChambeau, left, hits from the 18th green bunker during a practice round of the U.S. Open Golf Championship, Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego; and Brooks Koepka, right, walks on the first green during a practice round of the U.S. Open Golf Championship, Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego.**

**Associated Press**

**By DOUG FERGUSON**

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Torrey Pines has had its share of conflict over the years involving some of the top players in golf. Just not during such a taxing major as the U.S. Open.

Think back to 2003 at the Buick Invitational when Phil Mickelson was quoted in a magazine interview as saying Tiger Woods played with inferior equipment and was the only player good enough to overcome "the equipment he's stuck with." They wound up in the final group with Brad Faxon, whose nickname that week was "Switzerland," and Woods got the final word with another victory at Torrey Pines.

Then there was Jordan Spieth and Patrick Reed. They had a falling out from the 2018 Ryder Cup in France when Reed blamed Spieth for them not playing together in a U.S. loss. They played together in the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open, and Spieth broke any tension by giving Reed a playful hug on the first tee.

Can anyone see Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka hugging it out this week?

"At this point, probably not," Spieth said with a grin.

But this social media spat is different from the other two

that played out at Torrey Pines, getting so much attention that it has become the primary point of interest at this U.S. Open.

The big development Tuesday morning? Tee times were announced.

No, they're not playing together.

DeChambeau and Koepka are on opposite sides of the draw and starting at opposite ends of the course. There's a chance they might not even see each other this week, though they were hard to miss. Koepka wore lime green shorts. DeChambeau practiced in a bright red shirt and changed to a navy shirt for his interview so one of his sponsor logos was more visible.

Koepka left little to the imagination when talking about their relationship.

"I don't know if I'd call it a conflict," Koepka said. "We don't like each other. There's plenty of people you guys don't like. I don't see any difference."

This goes back nearly two years, and it reached a new level at the PGA Championship when a leaked Golf Channel interview that was never aired made its way onto Twitter. Koepka stopped the interview when he noticed DeChambeau walking behind him, rolled his eyes

and used salty language to share his feelings about DeChambeau.

It was viewed more than 10 million times before the video was taken down.

So began the back-and-forth. DeChambeau was bothered by fans shouting "Brooksy" to him at the Memorial (Koepka didn't play that week). Koepka posted a video offering free beer from one of his sponsors to any fans who might have been ejected.

The U.S. Open starts Thursday, and both players will have enough concerns coping with a South Course with dense, punishing rough that looks to fit the bill as the toughest test in golf.

"It doesn't matter to me what goes on," Koepka said. "It makes no difference to me. I'm out there trying to play my own game. What happens inside the ropes, it won't bother me."

DeChambeau described it as "great banter."

"I hope on the weekend we can play against each other and compete," DeChambeau said. "I think it would be fun and would be great for the game."

Faxon got in the middle of this one, too.

He said on SiriusXM that he found out the USGA called DeChambeau and

his agent to ask if it would be OK to put them in the same group, and that DeChambeau declined. That led to strong denials by DeChambeau's agent and the USGA that such a call existed.

However, it fell in line with a player saying two weeks ago that DeChambeau told him the USGA called to inquire about putting them together and DeChambeau was opposed because it would take away from the U.S. Open.

The player spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Gary Woodland heard speculation about a group of the last three U.S. Open champions — Koepka in 2018, Woodland in 2019 and DeChambeau last year. He would have been all for it.

"I think the energy in that group would have been amazing. I would have instigated and tried to start fights or whatever I could have done," he said with a smile.

For an individual sport with so many personalities, it should not be surprising that not everyone gets along. In golf, though, it's rarely this public.

"I think they've got a rivalry now, and I think it's good

for the game in the sense of rivals," Webb Simpson said. "I think them kind of being open and honest is good in a way because we know kind of what they think."

Simpson even wondered if they were doing this on purpose to improve their reach with fans, tapping into a \$40 million bonus pool based on player engagement.

"It would be fun to see them duel it out in a tournament here coming up, head-to-head on Sunday," he said.

Most other players have more pressing concerns, starting with how to keep the ball in the fairway and on the green to avoid the rough.

Spieth stepped awkwardly on his right ankle last week and has been dealing with soreness, hopeful that daily improvements will have him at full strength by Thursday. Jon Rahm was in the process of being vaccinated when he tested positive for the coronavirus after building a six-shot lead through 54 holes of the Memorial. Two negative tests ended his quarantine a few days early, though he still feels a little behind from having to go a week without any practice.

The fact DeChambeau is the defending champion has been almost an afterthought.

He won at Winged Foot by relying on his length off the tee and his strength out of the rough, along with iron play and putting that didn't get enough credit. He won by six and believes the same strategy might work at Torrey Pines.

In his tiff with Koepka, winning might be the final word.

This U.S. Open has so many possibilities, all of them overshadowed by a public feud in which the leading characters have suggested it's good for the game because people are talking.

While it's entertaining, NBC analyst Paul Azinger might have summed it up best.

"Sometimes I think they don't realize we might be laughing at them, not just with them," he said. □